

THE DESERT WHISPERS

Vol. 1 No. 4

FROM JOHNSON VALLEY

15c

December, 1967.

RUMORS SQUELCHED

Official information from the Dept. of the Navy regarding the former NOLC site is more interesting than our long-time speculations.

The site is now referred to as the Naval Weapons Center Corona Laboratories. Its light winks at us nightly from the north end of the Valley.

"In answer to your recent letter, we are pleased to explain the work being done at our field station near you," wrote G. I. Voran, public affairs officer.

"This Laboratory has for several years been conducting research for the purpose of acquiring more detailed knowledge on the radio signal propagation characteristics in the very low frequency range. In this portion of the radio spectrum wave lengths are very large, typically twenty miles long, as compared to 2 to 4 meters for television frequencies. Also, very high levels of static interference are produced by lightning discharges associated with thunderstorm activity. The Lucerne Valley field site is being used as a receiving station for monitoring these radio transmissions and for measuring and recording the properties of the electrical noise interference. Some of the radio propagation characteristics that are being studied include the effects of major solar storms, (called flare events,) These large storms emit bursts of X-rays which create a layer of ionization high in our atmosphere, about 70 kilometers altitude, which absorbs radio waves, thereby causing signal fadeout. This research is of an unclassified nature and serves to enhance the overall communications capability of our country.

"In all of these studies the atmospheric electromagnetic noise level is the main limitation to the system's sensitivity. In order to escape from the high man-made noises of an urban area, such as the leakage from electrical transmission lines, radiation from diathermy machines, welding apparatus, automobile ignitions, neon lights, etc., it was found necessary to seek a location away from the Corona district. Also the extensive real estate required for construction of the very large antennas necessary for the work was not available near the Laboratory. These two factors led to the arrangement for use of the government-owned desert land in the Lucerne Valley.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A talk on the use and care of car and home type fire extinguishers will be given at the January meeting of the Grandview Improvement Association at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the GIA building.

Assistant Fire Chief Webb of the Yucca Valley Fire Department is the scheduled speaker.

Progress reports will be given on the various projects underway.

Visitors are welcome, according to Alex Chernoff, president.

Phones and roads were among subjects discussed at the December meeting.

Mrs. C.C. Estes read communications from Congressman Jerry L. Pettis, one regarding phones.

There were 58 applicants for phones as of Oct. 11, requesting expansion of the Homestead Valley Exchange to about 39 square miles, which would include Johnson Valley, according to word from Robert W. Shaffer, area general manager, General Telephone Co., Pettis said.

If approval is given by the Calif. Public Utilities Commission, and filing is made early in 1968, completion date could be June 1, 1968, Shaffer said.

"This date contemplates satisfactory negotiations with the applicants for line extension charges. On this basis, actual telephone installation should be accomplished by July 1," the letter states.

Regarding roads, Pettis enclosed a letter from M. A. Nicholas, San Bernardino County engineer.

The Old Woman Springs Road was reconstructed and paved on a very limited budget and is used mostly by weekenders and a small percentage of trucks. The road is not in a satisfactory condition and improvement is under a phase program. The pavement is improved as funds are available, Nicholas said. (cont. page four)

Please be assured that we are not tracking flying saucers, nor are any clandestine helicopter landings being made there. And no one will be "shot" who goes near the place. But with the above information you can appreciate the hazard to persons concerned, and the errors produced in the scientific measurements by human intrusion into the working area." -G. I. Voran

A MESSAGE TO ALL

A message of interest which is not intended for Catholics only, has been received from Fr. Patrick J. Scanlon, pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Lucerne Valley.

"We are all faced with the same problems: how to influence and direct our youth through these changing times that make it so difficult for them to develop their individual personalities and to live in a way they realize their manhood calls them to," Fr. Scanlon said.

"You are aware that the Catholic Church has introduced many changes into her liturgy, (forms of public prayer), so as to make it more attractive and productive of greater spiritual good.

"Early in December, a group of 12 students from St. John Bosco High School, Bellflower, was invited to put on a Folk Mass at St. Paul's. They came with guitars, an amplifier and copies of the hymns for all. The pastor of St. Paul's was dubious of the impression this novelty would have on the older members of the congregation. He was soon relieved of all anxiety.

"The people loved it."

"They all joined in the singing, which was made easy by the simplicity of the musical renderings and the help of the instruments. The young people sang lustily, influenced much by the leadership, the obvious sincerity and earnestness of the high school students.

"Now our young people have asked that we hold a Folk Mass monthly, with guitar players chosen from among themselves. Their request was granted. If you can't beat them, join them.

This sign of awakened spiritual life among our youth is gratifying. Only after the event did I learn that the St. John High School choir has an outstanding reputation and has gained first place in public singing contests."

Sunday Masses are at 8 a.m. and at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church on Mesa Road in Lucerne Valley. The parish extends to a point five miles east of the Chisel Inn.

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JOHNSON VALLEY HAPPENINGS

by Aileen De Victoria

Woodrow Shehorn luckily escaped injury when his car flipped about four miles west of the Chisel Inn on Dec. 15. Woody emerged without a scratch but the car was damaged. Woody walked about a mile until he was given a lift to the DeVictorias and then taken home by jeep.

Virgil Draubaugh was bedded down with the flu just before Christmas, but was up and around to enjoy the holiday season, and the snow.

Bill Cotter also a victim of the bug.

After a two-day snow storm, which brought 14 inches of snow, most Valley residents were snowed in for two days. But it was beautiful, and fun for the kids.

Newlyweds Sylvia and Jerry Betts paid a visit to the Valley on their day off. They are now residing in Alhambra, but hope within a year or two to return to the desert.

Deepest sympathy to our neighbor at the navy base, Kenneth "Red" Hulbert, at the passing of his wife, Marie. They were returning to the base late on a cold, windy night, when their car developed trouble. Marie walked home, apparently lost her way, and was found frozen to death after snow fall.

HOME TALENT CORNER

by L. W. Jones

Life can be most happy
Or filled with regrets.
It's what one remembers,
Or what one forgets.
Life without a ray of hope
Could be an empty thing
More like a garden without a flower,
A year without a spring.

"I think life without manners is a game without rules, and absolute chaos."

- Robert Frost

THE DESERT WHISPERS

Martha Coutant

Marie Stanley

Stanley O. Coutant

Editor

Associate Editor

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CAMPBELL NEW PRESIDENT

Bert Campbell was elected president of the Desert Ears C. B. Club at the December meeting.

Other new officers are Deane Piner, Sr., vice president; Ruby Piner, secretary; Ann Hawley, treasurer.

Maurie Randall was named one-year board member; Nancy Dumond, two-year; and Eva Hibbard, three-year.

The officers will be installed at the Jan. 14 meeting.

The annual Christmas party was held on Dec. 17, with food and gifts enjoyed by the 65 persons present.

Hostesses were Eva Hibbard, Ann Hawley and Birtie Adam.

Mrs. Hawley also provided the music to accompany the singing of Christmas carols.

WORK ON MEMORIAL CONTINUES

A large slab of black granite has been obtained for the memorial to Daisy Crawford. When fitted with a plaque, suitably engraved, the stone will be placed in the future Rock Corral Recreation Park.

Woodrow Shehorn, Joe DeVictoria and Red Hulbert made the cross-country trip for a suitable stone.

A note to Grandview Improvement Association from Marie Conrad and family expressed appreciation to all Valley residents who "cared for Daisy as if she were their own mother."

Chairman of the memorial for the Grandview Association is Marie Stanley.

Valley Doings

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Estes entertained Mr. Estes' sister, Mrs. Ethel Vincent, from Thornton, Col.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Baumgard enjoyed a visit by their son, Charles, and his wife Jean and daughters Cathy and Susan, of Belmont, Calif. Joining them were neighbors Earl and Bea Roush, and Goldie Hopper. The Roushes hosted the group later in the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Alec White made a trip to Boulder, Colorado to visit a daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Hoover and children.

Much happiness is overlooked because it doesn't cost anything.

- The War Cry

(cont. from page 1)

"It would appear that it is satisfactory for the amount and type of traffic but far from the desires of the users," he added.

"When a subdivision is filed with the county, properly constructed and located roads become a part of the maintained system.

"This county is one of the few counties in California that does not use property taxes to build and maintain its road system," he explained.

"It is necessary therefore that the county follow a rule maintaining only those roads on which the State approves the spending of highway users taxes," it concludes.

The Grandview Association realized more than \$150 for the building fund through the money tree and a lamp donated by the Whites, it was announced.

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HOLIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Brooks and family here. Their holiday was marred when eldest son Hobby caught his finger in a sand buggy chain. He was taken to St. Mary's for stitches.

Susan, Sandra and Billy Long, of Upland, visited their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Deane Piner.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Jarvis spent the holiday in Fontana with their children.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Paden visited their daughter and grandchildren in Garden Grove.

Sarge and Marie Stanley had busy days entertaining family for the holidays. A daughter and family from Norwalk, Mr. and Mrs. Norvin Masters and Kathy, Karen and Stevie, were here to enjoy the snow. From Long Beach, Chuck and Doris Brundle and their son Rod, home on leave from Fort Ord. And for a longer visit, Rita, Missy and Kathy, who are getting to be regulars.

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INCORPORATION COMPLETED

United Mine Mill and Exploration is now an entity in Johnson Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Clay Quarles have completed incorporation of their green rock mine, on Frye Mountain.

Quarles has been developing the mine since 1954, when he started the crushing plant. He has built all of the present equipment himself.

Plans call for rebuilding the plant, adding equipment including a conveyor belt and bagging machinery. The new operation will allow for doubling production from 50 to 100 tons a day, Quarles said. A day is ten hours, he added.

The green rock is used in building, plastic floors, roofing, terrazo and landscaping. Sun City sports the local product.

Quarles' green rock is epidote. It does not absorb water, which prevents expansion to break the bond when the rock is used in roofing; the rock is not muddy and it does not blow, he said in listing its advantages.

The mine will be closed down until March for installation of the new equipment, he announced.

OBSERVATION FROM HIBERNATION ON HUMANATION

by the old Horned Toad

Too cold for push-ups in the sun down here under my snow-covered rock, but it's impossible to resist opening one eye for a brief look at the antics of the humans.

Imagine throwing snow-balls and wading in wet slush when one could be lolling in front of the red-hot pot-belly stove. And there's a fellow on Frye Mountain spent an hour and a half melting snow for bath water.

I'll admit though that people do have some nice tribal rites. Such as putting up all those pretty lights and doling out gayly wrapped gifts.

Glad to see that Cortez (Richard) Dumond and Columbus (Stanley) Coutant finally made it to the Indian petroglyphs, 36 miles in two hours.

Also along were the Richard Bergholz family and Phil and Jane Heisig. Only casualties were a smashed tailpipe, bent bumper, broken peanut-butter jar and a sprained ankle suffered by Patsy Dumond. Otherwise it was great, they said. People!!